

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, US

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS ON CODEL JAVITS AND US MIDDLE EAST POLICY

REF: TEL AVIV 2892

BEGIN SUMMARY: GENERALLY CRITICAL PRESS COMMENTARY ON SENATOR JAVITS' IMPRESSIONS OF TRENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND THE MOOD IN THE CONGRESS UNDERSCORES ISRAELI CONCERNS ABOUT GROWING DIVERGENCES BETWEEN US AND ISRAELI POLICIES. COMMENTATORS, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, VIEWED HIS VISIT AS DISQUIETING SIGNAL OF GROWING IMPATIENCE IN US FOR FURTHER PROGRESS ON ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, THE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY US PRESSURES ON ISRAEL AFTER THE US ELECTION, AND THE CONTINUING US RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE ARAB WORLD. REACTION TO JAVITS' VIEW ON ARAB PEACEFUL INTENTIONS RUNS THE GAMUT FROM SKEPTICISM TO DISBELIEF. END SUMMARY.

1. HAARETZ EDITORIAL (APRIL 18) COMMENTING ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JAVITS' VISIT TO EGYPT, WRITES THAT IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE BEFORE THE SIGNING OF SINAI II AND MUST BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIEWED AS ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. THE

VISIT TO CAIRO OF AN AMERICAN POLITICIAN WHO HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING A LOYAL FRIEND OF ISRAEL BEARS WITNESS TO THE RELAXATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT WHICH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT HAS PRODUCED. THE EDITORIAL ADDS THAT SADAT, BY RECEIVING JAVITS, DEMONSTRATES TO THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD HOW SERIOUS HIS TURN TO THE WEST IS.

2. YEDIOT EDITORIAL (APRIL 19) IN CRITICAL VEIN COMMENTS ON JAVITS' OBSERVATION THAT SADAT IS SEEKING "TO ESTABLISH CONDITIONS OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST" AND POSES THE QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF PEACE? "WE KNOW THAT THE PACIFISM SADAT DEMONSTRATES IS CONDITIONAL ON OUR WITHDRAWAL TO THE GREEN LINE AND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER, PLO-TERRORIST, ARAB STATE IN OUR VICINITY...WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM JAVITS IS WHETHER SADAT SEEKS PEACE ON THE BASIS OF SUCH A COMPLETE, ABSOLUTE CAPITULATION ON OUR PART, OR ON THE BASIS OF A COMPROMISE WITH US...IF IT IS A MATTER OF PEACE WITH COMPROMISE, JAVITS WILL FIND ISRAEL READY FOR EVERY CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION..."

3. ANOTHER YEDIOT EDITORIAL (APRIL 25) EXPRESSES ASTONISHMENT AT STATEMENTS MADE BY THE SENATOR WHILE IN ISRAEL. "SADAT, JAVITS SAYS, IS NOT AT ALL INCLINED TO WAR; ON THE CONTRARY. AND ASAD OF SYRIA, HE ADDS, ALSO GIVES HIM THE IMPRESSION OF BEING A 'MODERATE STATESMAN,' SO THAT WE MUST NOT SAY AN ABSOLUTE 'NL' TO HIM, OTHERWISE WASHINGTON MAY WITHIN THE YEAR COME UP WITH PROPOSALS THAT ARE WORSE FOR ISRAEL...AND SINCE ALL THIS COMES AFTER FORD'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE IS PREPARED 'TO HELP BRING ISRAEL AND PLO CLOSER TOGETHER,'...WE MUST ASSUME THAT JAVITS (AND MATHIAS) HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE AS CHANNELS FOR AMERICAN PRESSURE ON US IN ORDER TO INTIMIDATE US STILL FURTHER..."

4. HATZOFI EDITORIAL (APRIL 23) COMMENTS ON JAVITS' STATEMENTS AND EXPRESSES SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE MODERATE TREND OF THE ARAB RULERS WHICH IMPRESSED SENATOR JAVITS, FOR THEIR POLICY ALL ALONG PROVES THE CONTRARY. PERHAPS THAT OPINION IS DESIRABLE FOR THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AS EVIDENCE THAT ITS POLICY HAS PRODUCED A MEASURE OF RELAXATION, BUT IT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT OVERLY DESIRABLE FOR ISRAEL, WHICH IS MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN THE MEANS REQUIRED FOR THE SAFEGUARDING ITS SECURITY.

5. YEDIOT COMMENTATOR ORA SEM-OR (APRIL 22) CRITICIZES JAVITS' OBSERVATION THAT SADAT IS SEEKING PEACE. SHE WRITES: "FOR YOUR INFORMATION MR. JAVITS: SADAT DOES NOT NEED TO STRIVE FOR PEACE OR TO WANT PEACE; SADAT HAS PEACE...FOR THE LAST TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS OUR

HAND HAS BEEN HELD OUT FOR A SIGNED PEACE TREATY AND OUR HAND HAS REMAINED IN THE AIR ALL THE TIME....WHY DO YOU THINK SADAT GOES OUT OF HIS WAY TO BUY MORE AND MORE ARMS FOR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ALL OVER THE WORLD--NOW EVEN IN CHINA? YOU AND SADAT KNOW THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO 'GIVE BACK' MOST OF THE TERRITORIES TO HIM WITHOUT A SINGLE SHOT, IN RETURN FOR THIS PEACE. IT FOLLOWS THAT ALL THESE ENORMOUS ARMAMENTS THAT SADAT HAS BEEN COLLECTING ARE FOR EXTRACTING FROM US WHAT EVEN OUR GIVE-BACK-HAPPY GOVERNMENT CANNOT GIVE HIM: OUR INDEPENDENCE. HAS SADAT REALLY CONVINCED YOU THAT HE NEEDS THE SINAI DESERT ALL THAT URGENTLY AND THAT THE SAHARA IS NOT DESERT ENOUGH FOR HIM? HAS HE REALLY MADE YOU BELIEVE THAT HE FEELS SO STRONGLY ABOUT THE FATE OF THE REFUGEES THAT HE CANNOT WORRY ABOUT FEEDING HIS OWN CITIZENS AS LONG AS HIS REFUGEE BRETHREN HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THEIR 'HOMES'? YOU, MR. JAVITS? HARD TO BELIEVE. BUT THERE IS ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR YOUR ENTHUSIASM THAT MAKES MUCH MORE SENSE. YOU ARE AN AMERICAN SENATOR, AND AS SUCH, THE INTERESTS OF THE US ARE CLOSER TO YOUR HEART THAN THOSE OF ISRAEL. AS LONG AS THE TWO INTERESTS WERE IDENTICAL, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO BE A GOOD AMERICAN AND ALSO A GOOD JEW. UNFORTUNATELY, THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO NATIONS ARE NOT IDENTICAL JUST NOW, AS A RESULT OF AMERICAN POLICY. AND IT IS A GOOD THING THAT YOU HAVE COME TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND SAID WHAT YOU HAVE SAID, AND EXPLODED ONE MORE ILLUSION. NOW WE KNOW AT LEAST WHERE WE STAND.Z

6. YEDIOT POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, ERROL GUINEY, ALSO EXPRESSES RESERVATIONS AT JAVITS' OPTIMISM. "THE ARABS HE SPOKE WITH ARE NO FOOLS AND WERE QUITE AWARE THAT THEY WERE SPEAKING TO A JEWISH SENATOR WITH A LARGELY JEWISH CONSTITUENCY; AND THE ARABS MAY WANT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT ONLY ON CONDITION OF A WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE TERRITORIES AND A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM...." GUINEY ADDS THAT JAVITS ACCEPTS THE ISRAELI POSITION THAT THE KEY QUESTION IS NOT THE PALESTINIANS BUT THE ARAB REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL. JAVITS ASSERTS THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF AN ISRAELI INITIATIVE THE US WILL PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE--THIS, ACCORDING TO JAVITS, DOES NOT MEAN IMPOSING SOLUTIONS. GIVEN THE INDIRECT PRESSURE THE US CAN EXERT ON ISRAEL, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IMPOSING A SOLUTION AND MAKING PROPOSALS SEEMS TO BE MAINLY SEMANTIC. ALL IN ALL, ONE MAY CONCLUDE THAT JAVITS DOES NOT THINK THAT ISRAEL SHOULD TRY TO GAIN TIME AND SIT OUT THE ELECTION YEAR. DUNNIGAN

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